

Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 828 - Boat Registration (LSB 1475 HZ.1)

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Fiscal Note Version – As Amended by S-3252

Description

House File 828, as amended by S-3252, makes the following changes impacting boat registration fees:

- Increases the biennial registration fee for boats with no motor or sail from \$5.00 to a triennial fee of \$12.00.
- Creates a triennial \$22.50 registration fee for motorboats or sailboats that are less than 16 feet in length.
- Creates a triennial \$36.00 registration fee for motorboats or sailboats that are more than 16 feet but less than 26 feet in length.
- Creates a triennial \$75.00 registration fee for motorboats or sailboats that are 26 feet or more but less than 40 feet in length.
- Creates a triennial \$150.00 registration fee for motorboats or sailboats that are 40 feet in length or longer.
- Creates a triennial \$45.00 registration fee for personal watercraft.
- Specifies boats not registered by May 1, are subject to payment of a \$5.00 penalty.
- Defines the qualifications of a peace officer and allows a peace officer or representative of the Natural Resource Commission to inspect a commercial vessel for hire at any time.
- Outlines the reasons for suspending a commercial boat registration certificate.
- Specifies any peace officer trained in boating and navigation laws can inspect commercial or private boats.
- Requires boat operators that are between 12 and 17 years of age to complete the Watercraft Safety Course offered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Specifies that any operator of a vessel that has ten or more horsepower, and is 12 years of age but less than 18 years of age, cannot operate the vessel unless the operator has either successfully completed the Department's watercraft safety course, or is accompanied by a responsible person 18 years or older that is experienced in motorboat operation.
- Specifies revenue received from the fee increase will be used for administration and enforcement of programs that control aquatic invasive species and enforcement of navigation laws and water safety. The Bill requires the Environmental Protection Commission to submit an annual report summarizing the use of the funds from the fee increase for FY 2007 through FY 2013.
- Increases the county writing fee from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per transaction, or a person registering three boats would pay \$1.25.
- The fee increase is effective January 1, 2007.

Background

There is a separate account in the DNR for Boat Registration Fees. Each year, \$1.4 million is transferred from the Boat Registration Fees account to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund that is used for navigation law enforcement and boater safety. The last fee increase was in 1984.

Assumptions

1. There are approximately 230,000 boats registered in Iowa.
2. Annual gross receipts from boat registration fee increases are estimated to increase \$962,000 for FY 2007 and every year thereafter.

Correctional Impact

The correctional impact of HF 828 is expected to be minimal.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact of HF 828, as amended by S-3252, is an increase in revenue of \$962,000 for FY 2007 and every year thereafter in the Boat Registration Fees account. Of that amount, \$481,000 will be used for boating enforcement and \$481,000 will be used for the prevention of aquatic invasive species through FY 2013. After that time, the increase will be used for boating enforcement activities. The estimated fiscal impact from the county writing fee increase, but changing it from a biennial fee to a triennial fee, is an annual decrease of \$13,000 per year.

Source

Department of Natural Resources

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

May 4, 2005

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
